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## Second Committee

**Summary record of the 2nd meeting**
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 26 September 2001, at 3 p.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Seixas da Costa ..... (Portugal)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.*

**Election of officers**

1. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should defer the election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur to the next meeting.

2. *It was so decided.*

**Statement by the Chairman**

3. **The Chairman** said that the circumstances under which the Committee was beginning its work were unprecedented in the history of the United Nations. The brutal attacks on New York, the host city, and Washington, D.C., should give cause for deep reflection within a broader context. Due to other exceptional circumstances, the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Committee would have to interrupt schedule from 15 to 19 October.

4. The Committee would carefully examine issues related to sustainable development. Poverty eradication was vital for sustainable development. Achieving sustainable development depended on integrating economic and social development and environmental protection within a democratic framework that empowered all sectors of society. Development must be based on sound environmental policies. Consideration of items relating to the protection of the global environment would therefore have to take into account the preparatory framework for the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development.

5. Population issues were also crucial to sustainable development. Recent changes in the dynamics of population growth and movement had made negotiations on such matters increasingly polemical and complex. As a result, they were being dealt with at the highest political level. In negotiating resolutions in the Committee, he hoped that the concerns of the least developed countries would not be overlooked.

6. Finally, turning to macroeconomic policy questions, he expressed the hope that the Committee would respond to the recent manifestations of public opinion and civil unrest, like those which had occurred in Genoa during the recent G-8 Summit by working towards reaching consensus on those very difficult matters.

**Organization of work** (A/56/250 and A/C.2/56/L.1 and Add.1)

7. **The Chairman** said that meetings would begin punctually at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers for that meeting.

8. At the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the Committee had utilized 73 per cent of its allocated conference resources and had lost 41 hours owing to late starting and early adjournment of meetings. He hoped that, at the current session, the Committee would be able to improve on those statistics.

9. Based on previous experience, it was proposed that speakers should be limited to 15 minutes for the general debate and 7 minutes for statements under individual agenda items. Introductions by members of the Secretariat and representatives of the agencies, funds and programmes would be limited to 10 minutes. Their statements should focus on highlights and priorities and should, if possible, be distributed in advance.

10. The Committee's agenda was based on clusters as laid down in General Assembly resolutions 52/12 B, 50/227 and 48/162. The programme of work took into account the availability of reports and, to the extent possible, the presence of the high-level representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes.

11. As requested in resolution 50/227, draft resolutions would be shorter and, for issues of a procedural nature, decisions would be used instead of resolutions. Also, in accordance with resolution 50/227, the Committee would, at the end of the session, review its draft programme for the coming year with a view to streamlining and simplifying reporting procedures. The deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions would be strictly adhered to. Only in exceptional circumstances would deadlines be extended.

12. Following the successful practice of previous years, he intended to organize briefings by senior officials, panel discussions on agenda items and keynote addresses. He would also welcome any suggestions from members of the Committee.

13. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the arrangements just described were acceptable to the Committee.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **The Chairman** drew attention to document A/C.2/56/L.1 and to the actions taken by the General Assembly based on the recommendations contained in the first report to the General Committee (A/56/250) relating to the organization of the work of the General Assembly and the Main Committees. The target date for the conclusion of the Committee's work was Friday, 7 December 2001.

16. **Mr. Zarie Zare** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, proposed that in order to save and set aside some time for the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development, said that the Committee would not have discussions or prepare substantive draft resolutions on items 95 (a), 95 (b), 95 (d), 105 and 107. Any draft resolutions on those items would be purely procedural. However, delegations were free to submit written statements on any of those five items.

17. **Mr. Goffin** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the fact that items 95 (b) and 95 (d) were to be taken up immediately prior to the meeting of the Preparatory Committee. While the European Union was prepared to consider the proposal to work in December on the financing for development process, it wished to receive every assurance that those additional days of work would be taken from the time saved. The European Union agreed that the items identified as pertaining to the financing for development process should be dealt with in a procedural manner. It hoped that it would have the opportunity to make a more formal statement on topical issues such as thinking relating to globalization.

18. **Ms. Tavora-Jainchill** (Brazil) said that it was very important that delegations be kept abreast of developments all over the world concerning preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. When organizing panel discussions and briefings the Chairman should try to call on people or organizations who were involved in the preparations for the Summit.

19. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) expressed her delegation's support for the statements made by the representatives of the Group of 77 and China and the European Union.

20. **Mr. Stanislavov** (Russian Federation) said that while agreeing to that general approach proposed by the Group of 77 and China, his delegation wished to emphasize that the decision should not be regarded as creating a precedent. He also agreed with the European Union's statement that there should be a more formal consideration of globalization within the Committee.

21. **The Chairman** after assuring members that they would have ample opportunity to address, in a formal setting, the issue of globalization and that he would endeavour to take into consideration the suggestion made by the representative of Brazil, said that he took it that the Committee wished to approve its programme of work as contained in document A/C.2/56/L.1.

22. *It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 3.48 p.m.*